

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Participation/Nutritious Meals and Snacks

For 1 point

REQUIRED for 3, 4, and 5 star programs

To earn this point, Programs must meet BOTH requirements 1 and 2 below:

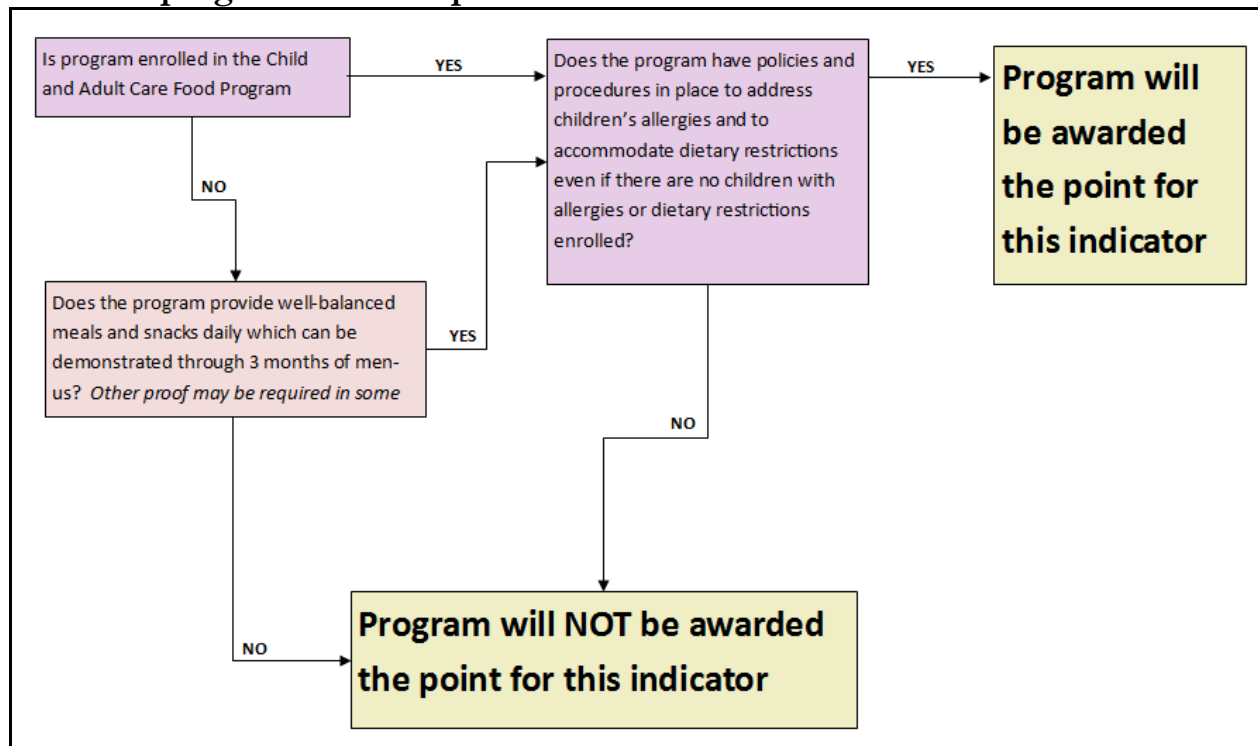
1. The program **EITHER** participates in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) (confirmed by DPI) including mandatory participation in CACFP-related training opportunities **OR** provides well-balanced meals and snacks daily which can be demonstrated through **the latest three months** of menus. Further proof may be required in some instances. If a program has their CACFP participation revoked or suspended, they will lose this point for the rest of the YoungStar rating year. They will be eligible to earn the point again upon their next YoungStar Contract Renewal and rating.

AND

2. The program must have policies and procedures on-site to address children's allergies and accommodate dietary restrictions. This requirement applies even if there are no children in care with allergies or dietary restrictions. The policy can mirror the language that is required for licensing in [Wisconsin Administrative Code 251.07\(5\)\(a\)\(9 and 9m\)](#).

NOTE: If the children bring their own meals and snacks, the Consultant/Rating Observer will verify that the Program has a written policy to ensure that the meals and snacks brought into the program meet CACFP guidelines and supplements when they do not meet the guidelines.

Can a program earn this point?



Additional Requirements for Formal Ratings

If a program wants to earn 4 or 5 Stars, they must go through a Formal Rating Observation process using the Environment Rating Scales (ERS). To earn a 4 Star, the program would need to have an average ERS score of at least 4 (out of 7 possible points) and for a 5 Star, the average subscale score of at least 5 (out of seven possible points).

One subscale called “Meals/snacks” looks as the meals and snacks served during the observation is to determine whether the correct components of a meal or snack are being served to children and an acceptable time frame is being met. The ERS refers to nutrition guidelines for USDA Child and Adult Food Program to determine whether the components are present. These can be found in the Wisconsin Licensing Rules 250 and 251 in Appendix B and C. As long as the required nutritionally adequate meals and snacks are served, within the acceptable timeframe, credit can be given. The acceptable time frame is in the table below.

ERS Items (FCCERS-R – 9, ITERS-R – 7, ECERS-R – 10, SACERS – 18)	
Time a Child is Present	Number of Meals and Snacks
≤ 4 hours	1 meal or snack
4 – 6 hours	1 meal
6 – 12 hours	2 meals and 1 snack or 1 meal and 2 snacks
More than 12 hours	2 meals and 2 snacks

Wisconsin Licensing Rules around Meals and Snacks (DCF 250 and 251)

(5) MEALS AND SNACKS.

(a) Food.

1. Food shall be provided by the center based on the amount of time children are present as specified in Table 250.07 and 251.07.

Wisconsin Licensing Rules 250 and 251 indicate the timeframe for serving required nutritionally adequate meals and snacks is as follows:

Wisconsin Licensing Requirements around Meals and Snacks DCF 250.07 and 251.07	
Time a Child is Present	Number of Meals and Snacks
At least 2 ½ but less than 4 hours	1 snack
At least 4 but less than 8 hours	1 snack and 1 meal
At least 8 but less than 10 hours	1 meal and 2 snacks
At least 10 or more hours	2 meals and 2 or 3 snacks

2. Center-provided transportation time shall be included in determining the amount of time children are present for the purposes of subd. 1.

3. Food shall be served at flexible intervals, but no child may go without nourishment for longer than 3 hours.

4. Each meal and snack served shall meet the U.S. department of agriculture child care food program minimum meal requirements.

Note: See Appendices B and C for information on the U.S. department of agriculture child and adult care food program minimum meal requirements.

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/dcf/251_b.pdf

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5. Menus for meals and snacks provided by the center shall:

- a. Be posted in the kitchen and in a conspicuous place accessible to parents.
- b. Be planned at least one week in advance, dated and kept on file for 3 months.
- c. Be available for review by the department.
- d. Include diverse types of foods.

6. Any changes in a menu as planned shall be recorded on the copies of the menu kept on file and posted for parents.

6m. When snacks are provided by parents for all children, a record of the snack served shall be posted in an area accessible to parents.

7. Enough food shall be prepared for each meal so that second portions of vegetables or fruit, bread and milk are available to children.

8. When food for a child is provided by the child's parent, the center shall provide parents with information about requirements for food groups and quantities specified by the U.S. department of agriculture child care food program minimum meal requirements.

9. A special diet, based on a medical condition, excluding food allergies, but including nutrient concentrates and supplements, may be served only upon written instruction of a child's physician and upon request of the parent.

9m. A special diet based on a food allergy may be served upon the written request of the parent.

10. Cooks, staff members, child care workers and substitutes having direct contact with the children shall be informed about food allergies and other allergies of specific children.

(b) *Mealtime.*

1. Staff shall sit at the table with the children during mealtime.
2. Meals shall be served with time allowed for socialization.